Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

2006/07 Annual Service Plan Report

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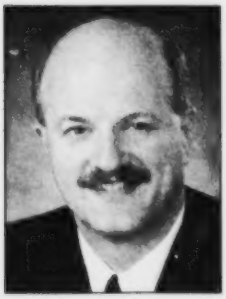


Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement

The 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan laid out the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' mandate to promote economic development and environmental sustainability for the agriculture and food sectors, supporting them in delivering safe, high-quality food, and to take a balanced approach to the administration of Crown land. Our mandate clearly supports the province's Five Great Goals for a Golden Decade.

To fulfill our goals, the Ministry has adopted a three-themed approach. We continue to work to improve access to Crown land, enhance the flow of knowledge and address the issues that divide our agricultural and urban communities.

The Integrated Land Management Bureau

The Integrated Land Management Bureau provides one-stop access to natural resource authorizations and information, and leads on completion of strategic land-use plans, supporting sustainable environmental development of the province's natural resources.

Highlights over the past year include:

Progress continued on implementation of the Province's land use plans. In support of the Coastal Land Use Decision, first announced in February 2006, 24 new conservancies were created and the first suite of the proposed Land-Use Legal Objectives for Ecosystem-Based Management was released for public review. The Sea-to-Sky Phase I and Morice land and resource management plans were approved and are moving into the implementation phase.

The federal government, provincial government and private non-profit organizations came together in a unique partnership to promote conservation and new opportunities for First Nations within the area covered by the Central Coast and North Coast land and resource management plans. The two governments have contributed $30 million apiece, with a further $60 million coming from private foundations for a total of $120 million. The government contribution will be invested through the Conservation Investment and Incentives Initiative Fund into sustainable ventures such as tourism and non-timber forest products. The matching private funding will provide an endowment fund for conservation management and research projects in the region in perpetuity.

The Species at Risk Coordination office began implementing the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan that included convening the international Spotted Owl Population Enhancement Team of experts to provide guidance on species recovery. The Bureau, working closely with the Ministry of Environment, finalized a proactive strategy and accompanying actions to address

species-at-risk. The Mountain Caribou Science Team findings and conclusions were released in October 2006. This led to a comprehensive public consultation phase that concluded in early 2007, a step essential to moving forward on mountain caribou recovery.

Improvement in client services continued. FrontCounter BC offices in Prince George, Nanaimo, Victoria, Williams Lake, Surrey, Cranbrook, Fort St. John and Smithers were opened, in addition to a 1-800 Call Centre established in partnership with Service BC. Business and individuals who access FrontCounter BC have shown a high degree of satisfaction in the services provided and through the new offices, we will continue to streamline permitting and licensing with government agencies involved.

British Columbians' access to land and resource information is now enhanced by the new Natural Resource Information Centre website and iMap BC. The public and industry have improved access to base mapping products and hundreds of government land and resource data sets to support land-use decisions on critical issues, such as First Nations agreements, major projects and environmental reporting.

The Bureau's support of community projects included the redevelopment of Baynes Lake schoolhouse into a residence for seniors; inventorying and marketing Crown land to help meet the demand being generated by the new container port at Prince Rupert; and a transfer of Community Land Bank parcels to the Resort Municipality of Whistler for employee housing and accommodation for athletes during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (Athletes' Village).

Agriculture and Crown Land Administration Division

Innovative thinking resulted in a new Tree Fruit Strategy focused on creating an economically viable and competitive industry locally and in the global marketplace, and the Beef Cattle Industry Strategy which saw government and industry working together to develop a long-term plan to boost our province's beef cattle sector. Biofuels and agri-food niche markets are being promoted as emerging sectors while a pioneering spirit in the Lillooet/Lytton region generated funding to explore the feasibility of growing grapes for wine production and the possibility of a new wine region in B.C.

The Ministry responded to the challenges of drought in the Peace Region and hail damage in the Okanagan. New Production Insurance products were introduced as well as plant loss coverage for blueberries due to water damage. Construction has begun on the Containment Level 3 lab at the Animal Health Centre in Abbotsford, where samples for highly infectious viruses and bacteria will be tested in a safe, secure location.

Agri-tourism continues to grow with funding for a provincial fair program to showcase British Columbia's agri-sector. The student Summer Extension Assistants Program was expanded this year with 16 post-secondary students participating in activities around the province, while B.C.'s successful Strengthening Farming program was presented at the U.N. World Urban Forum and the World Planners Congress.

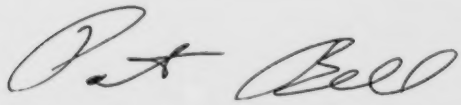
Collaborating with other ministries, First Nations and the private sector resulted in the ActNow BC-funded First Nations Community Food Systems for Healthy Living project and the First Nations 2010 Agriculture Initiative. The Ministry partnered with ActNow BC to raise awareness in children and young adults of the benefit of eating healthy through the School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program.

The Ministry helped plan the transfer of Crown land from the Ministry of Forests' Green Timbers site for the construction of a new outpatient hospital in Surrey.

Recognizing excellence, the Ministry was honoured for the Britannia Mine Remediation Project, winning the 2006 Gold Medal for Infrastructure presented by the Canadian Council of Public-Private Partnerships; the Fraser Basin Council's 2006 Sustainability Award in the Caring for Ecosystems category; and the 2006 Premier's Award for Innovation and Excellence in the Partnership category.

I am pleased to report that the Agricultural Planning Committee is developing the Agriculture Plan and the province continues to work with its Federal and Provincial partners to develop a new national policy framework for the agriculture and food sector.

The 2006/07 Ministry of Agriculture and Lands Annual Service Plan Report compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's 2006/07 – 2008/09 Service Plan. I am accountable for those results as reported.



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

June 27, 2007

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Part A:
Integrated Land Management Bureau

Highlights of the Year

In June 2005, the B.C. government established the Integrated Land Management Bureau to provide one-stop access to natural resource authorizations and information, to lead the completion of strategic land-use plans in a manner that supports the sustainable economic development of the province's natural resources, and to prioritize and coordinate recovery planning for species-at-risk. The Bureau's second-year achievements included:

Regional Client Services

- Opened a further eight FrontCounter BC offices across the province in Prince George, Nanaimo, Victoria, Williams Lake, Surrey, Cranbrook, Fort St. John and Smithers, following the success of the pilot office in Kamloops, which opened in September 2005. A Call Centre has also been established in partnership with Service BC. The FrontCounter BC offices and Call Centre represent the Bureau's flagship method of client-service delivery in the provision of access to Crown land and natural resources on behalf of partner agencies. Surveys have shown a high degree of satisfaction with the service FrontCounter BC provides.
- Issued a total of 2,425 tenures[1] under the *Land Act* during 2006/07, thereby providing access to Crown land for many uses including commercial, recreational and industrial activities that strengthen the provincial economy while respecting environmental and social values.
- Examples of the types of community projects the Bureau worked on through provision of Crown land and in cooperation with local government and First Nations partners included: redevelopment of the Baynes Lake schoolhouse into a residence for seniors; development of both provincial and municipal lands for commercial use to emphasize Oliver as the "Wine Capital of Canada"; development of Crown land for residential use at Princeton and for residential, industrial and access purposes at Clinton; expansion of municipal lands at Terrace; inventorying and marketing Crown land to help meet the demand being generated by the new container port at Prince Rupert and for the creation of an inland port in Prince George; development of affordable housing at Squamish as a result of a Crown land sale; and transfer of Community Land Bank parcels to the Resort Municipality of Whistler for employee housing and accommodation of athletes during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games (Athletes' Village).

Land and Resource Information

- Developed and initiated a Natural Resource Information Centre website to provide one-window access to land and resource information products and services.

[1] This figure includes 1,119 new tenures, 1,239 replacement tenures, 66 pre-renewals and one pre-tenure. It does not include those oil and gas tenures issued on the Bureau's behalf by the Oil and Gas Commission.

- Recorded almost 7,000 sales by fiscal year-end on the Base Map Online Store, which provides ready access to all base mapping products for the public, industry and government.
- Updated 20 per cent of the province with new mapping, under the oversight of the Provincial Base Mapping Advisory Committee. A strategic plan developed by the committee features a horizontal approach to addressing multi-sectoral needs that include the natural resource and social side.
- Established the Natural Resource Sector Information Council to guide the Bureau's information management work, with representatives from client and support agencies helping to set priorities and strategic direction, and ensure corporate needs are met.
- Developed and implemented iMap BC to provide the public and industry access to hundreds of government land and resource data sets and to support land-use decisions on critical issues, such as First Nations agreements, major projects and environmental reporting.
- Completed the Corporate Watershed Base, which provides a single hydrographic network for the province.
- Added 15 new interests, including windpower and waterpower licences, to the web-based Integrated Land and Resource Registry. The registry now provides users in government, industry and the general public (limited access) with up-to-date information on 263 different legal rights and interests. Finding out who has rights and interests and for what purpose over any parcel of Crown land can now be completed in minutes instead of days or weeks.

Land-use Planning

- Continued progress on a number of implementation projects in support of the Central and North Coast Land and Resource Management Plan Decisions, approved in February 2006, including creation of 24 new conservancies; initial meetings of the implementation and monitoring committees and the ecosystem base management working group; and the release for public review of the first suite of the proposed Land-Use Legal Objectives for Ecosystem-Based Management for both the North and Central Coasts.[2]
- Completed a New Direction for Strategic Land-Use Planning report in partnership with the Crown Land Administration Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. This document proposes strategic land-use planning in B.C. that is flexible and responsive to current and emerging government goals and priorities, including commitments to a New Relationship with First Nations.

[2] Ecosystem-Based Management is defined as "an adaptive approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the co-existence of health, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities." Objectives include initial resource management direction for cultural and heritage values, cedar, high-value fish habitat; sensitive watersheds and upland water quality; ecological biodiversity, red and blue list ecosystems, stand-level retention and critical grizzly bear habitat.

- Concluded Sea-to-Sky Land and Resource Management Plan Phase I negotiations and moved the plan to government for decision.
- Completed Sunshine Coast land-use plan scoping document, with planning and protocol discussions now fully underway with First Nations.
- Facilitated initialing of the Atlin-Taku planning framework with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, which will move forward for government's decision in 2007/08.
- Completed negotiations with First Nations and advanced the Morice Land and Resource Management Plan for government approval. Potential benefits include demonstrated sustainable management of boreal forest, certainty for mineral exploration and development, a strategic response to the mountain pine beetle epidemic, several new parks and successful government-to-government land-use planning.
- Obtained approval in principle for the Peace-Moberly Tract plan, the first sustainable resource management plan to address oil and gas development and integrate First Nations' values and interests.

Species-at-Risk Coordination

- Developed a new provincial policy framework on species-at-risk that was approved by government early in 2007 and endorsed by the federal government. This new approach will help the various levels of government and stakeholders become more proactive with respect to addressing species-at-risk.
- Implemented government's action plan for the recovery of northern spotted owl, extending the Province's commitment to the management and recovery of species-at-risk and meeting its obligations under the federal *Species-at-Risk Act*.
- Convened the Spotted Owl Population Enhancement Team, composed of international experts, to provide guidance on spotted owl recovery and meet provincial commitments to the federal Minister of Environment.
- Released Mountain Caribou Science Team findings and conclusions in fall of 2006 with announcement of the initiation of a public consultation phase for mountain caribou recovery.
- Approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the British Columbia Snowmobile Federation regarding the management of snowmobiles in mountain caribou habitats.

Purpose of Bureau

The Integrated Land Management Bureau provides an array of services to the public and to other government agencies involved in utilizing and managing Crown land and natural resources. External clients range from those seeking access for business, community, recreational or other purposes to those interested in the effective environmental stewardship of land and resources. The Bureau assists clients by coordinating access to tenures, permits, licences, Crown land sales and grants; developing and facilitating the implementation of strategic Crown land-use plans; managing and providing land and resource information; and prioritizing and coordinating recovery planning for broad-ranging species-at-risk.

Bureau Vision

"World-leading natural resource service delivery that exceeds expectations and provides business certainty for our clients."

Bureau Mission

"Deliver leading edge, timely, client-friendly and responsive integrated natural resource information and services that support a vibrant B.C. economy, healthy communities and a sustainable environment."

The work of the Bureau helps provide access to natural resources for six important sectors of our economy, which directly account for about 13 per cent of the province's GDP — forestry; tourism; mining; oil, gas and energy extraction; agriculture; and aquaculture.[3] Over 40 per cent of communities outside of Greater Vancouver are dependent on natural resources for more than 30 per cent of their income.[4] B.C. is Canada's most biologically diverse province and is home to more than half of the fish and wildlife species living in the country.[5]

Crown lands and resources are major contributors to the economic, social and environmental health of the province. In addition, 94 per cent of the province's land area is publicly owned, and its use and management is intertwined with the province's economy, history and social fabric.

In providing its services, the Bureau plays a key role in improving coordinated access to Crown natural resources, furthering government's commitment to a strong economy, vibrant communities, environmental stewardship and the development of strong, mutually supportive relationships with First Nations.

[3] When secondary benefits to a range of sectors are included, the figure rises to 36 per cent of GDP (2004 GDP figures at 1997 prices). Source: BC Stats.

[4] Source: BC Stats.

[5] Source: B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range.

The Bureau's services to the public are provided on behalf of numerous provincial ministries, five of which oversee the work of the Bureau as an advisory board. The five ministries are: Agriculture and Lands; Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; Environment; Forests and Range; Tourism, Sport and the Arts. The Bureau also provides corporate leadership and coordination on behalf of government regarding the sustainable use and management of natural resources and related information. Established in 2005, the Bureau is hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. While formally accountable in financial and performance terms to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, the Bureau operates relatively independently of the Ministry.

The Bureau's regionally-based FrontCounter BC service expands the range of natural resource authorizations and integrates Crown land use, land-use planning and the provision and analysis of land and resource information. This consolidation of services at the regional level is part of a government-wide initiative to become more citizen-centred. This service will improve effectiveness and efficiency by providing a "one-stop shop" for people and businesses requiring access to provincial natural resources. FrontCounter BC assists these clients and provides a single-window access point for over 100 different types of authorization applications concerning natural resources on behalf of the ministries and other agencies it serves.[6] Similarly, on behalf of the natural resource sector, the Bureau's web-based Natural Resource Information Centre provides a single window to the province's common land and resource information products and services on the Internet.

All of the business conducted by the Integrated Land Management Bureau upholds the government's values as identified in the *Province of British Columbia's Strategic Plan.*

[6] The ministries have a mandate to adjudicate non-*Land Act* natural resource authorizations. They review and make decisions on the applications. The Bureau tracks the progress of applications and communicates the results to the client. In the case of applications for new and replacement land tenures under the *Land Act* or Crown land sales, the Bureau also adjudicates these applications on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Strategic Context

In its second full year of existence, the Integrated Land Management Bureau responded quickly to a number of external factors that could have affected its business or intended achievements. One overarching external factor that served as a key driver behind the Bureau's activities was the need for provincial ministries and agencies to act corporately to achieve government goals, including economic development that is balanced with sustainable environmental management. The Bureau, along with many provincial government agencies, has been assisting with the achievement of a number of cross ministry priorities, such as preparing for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, supporting implementation of the New Relationship with First Nations and responding corporately to the mountain pine beetle epidemic. An overview of these factors follows and is expanded upon in the Report on Performance section, along with the objectives and strategies the Bureau followed to address them.

Meeting the Challenge of Global Competitiveness: High North American and international market demands for natural resources, particularly energy resources, resulted in ongoing requests for the Bureau to facilitate access to a wide range of natural resources and to plan for, and allocate, Crown land to meet the needs of communities, First Nations and economic development.

Balancing the Competing Demands for Land Use: Finding a balance for the competing demands for Crown land use is a significant business driver for the Bureau. Most of these demands are addressed through land-use planning which leads to the completion and implementation of strategic land and resource management plans. The plans remain of strong interest to First Nations, industry sectors, businesses and individuals desiring certainty of access to natural resources and/or to protect the environmental values of specified areas. The Morice and Sea-to-Sky (Phase I) land and resource management plans were approved by government within the last year, and the Central and North Coast Land-Use Decision is now one full year into implementation. Three land and resource management plans are nearing the end of their government-to-government negotiation phase with First Nations (Sea-to-Sky Phase II, Lillooet and Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands). Provided that negotiations can be successfully concluded with First Nations, it is anticipated that all three will have moved to the implementation stages by the end of 2007/08.

The Bureau also sought to address competing demands on Crown land by addressing marine and coastal planning issues and jurisdictional issues with the federal government. Another strong driver was supporting the establishment of legal objectives under the *Forest and Range Practices Act.* As well, competing demands for Crown land use play a part in the management of species-at-risk in B.C. and the Bureau's role in addressing this issue is mentioned in the Species-at-Risk section below.

Engagement of First Nations: As part of an overall government commitment to enhance a New Relationship with First Nations, the Bureau sought to engage First Nations on a number of issues so that their values and interests can be better incorporated. These issues included seeking engagement in land and resource management planning, species-at-risk recovery planning and revisions to land-use plans on new environmental issues such as mountain pine beetle impacts, and working with First Nations in a pilot project to streamline referrals and consultation on natural resource applications.

Economic Development Opportunities on Crown Land: The demand for housing, fueled by low interest rates, low vacancy rates and increased population, has placed further pressure on making more Crown land available, in addition to the growth of businesses seeking access to Crown land through the tenuring process. In order to better serve those seeking the use of Crown land and resources, and to respond to government's long-term plan to deliver more efficient government services, the Bureau opened eight FrontCounter BC offices across the province. These offices addressed the needs of clients, serving as a single point-of-contact for those operating or starting a natural resource-focused business in B.C. Clients no longer needed to go from agency to agency to obtain information and the various approvals required to invest in natural resource opportunities in the province. FrontCounter BC staff provided information and help on virtually every provincially regulated natural resource issue related to the client's project from start to finish. The Bureau also worked with the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services to coordinate FrontCounter BC regional service delivery, with services offered from the more widely dispersed Government Agents/Service BC locations.

Also during the year, the Bureau continued to support preparations for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. This was done in a variety of ways, including providing Crown land for Olympic and Olympic-related venues and host communities and working with other agencies to ensure First Nations, community, business and environmental interests are adequately addressed so that Olympic venues can be constructed on time and on budget

Meeting Demands for Ongoing Technological Changes and the Increasingly Sophisticated Needs of Clients: The Bureau maintains a wealth of resource information through a number of systems and services available to industry, businesses, individuals and various levels of government. Access to this information and services needs to be seamless, easy to understand and timely. For example, the base mapping service the Bureau provides is a critical foundation geographic tool that is essential for resource management and other provincial government services such as emergency response, community planning and development, and First Nations treaty development.

Managing client expectations, setting priorities and coordinating information sources across government within available resources is an ongoing challenge. One major reason is that the Bureau is not the "steward" of most of the natural resource information held by government.[7]

[7] Agencies with the natural resource mandate retain this accountability (e.g., the Ministry of Environment manages the collection of fish and wildlife information).

The Bureau's role is restricted to managing all of the natural resource information after it has been collected and quality assured by other agencies, and then providing mechanisms to disseminate this information to users.

In order to address the fact that the Bureau manages land and resource information using many different information technology applications, the Bureau continues to work on systems integration and finding synergies between the different applications, which will create a more seamless and efficient system.

Species-at-Risk Coordination: The Bureau is accountable for coordinating development of a government-wide, science-based approach to the management and recovery of broad-ranging species-at-risk, specifically the northern spotted owl, mountain caribou and marbled murrelet. These, and indeed all species-at-risk, are considered an indicator of the environmental health of their habitat areas. B.C.'s geography and diversity of ecosystems support a wide variety and diverse range of plant and animal species. Species-at-risk management issues cut across all sectors of the province's resource economy — forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, wildlife harvesting, First Nations' interests, international trade — and affect B.C.'s ability to attract and support investment.

The population of the three critical species mentioned above continues to decline despite extensive attention and significant expenditure over the last decade. Clear, practical decisions need to be made in a timely way to address population declines and bring land and resource-use certainty to other resource-based activities. As well, the current legislative framework creates an overly prescriptive regulatory regime which may position recovery efforts and resources in a direction counter to B.C.'s broader interests and to the detriment of B.C.'s complement of globally significant species. Accordingly, the Bureau will develop a corporate "Made-in-B.C." approach to address the management of broad-ranging species-at-risk. Also in response to these challenges, the Bureau remains committed to consulting with a wide spectrum of government agencies, First Nations, industry, stakeholders and the public on recovery and management options and recommendations for each of the three species.

Further, the Bureau is developing strategies to shift the province's approach to species-at-risk management from a reactive to a proactive model by working with partner ministries in developing a corporate species-at-risk action plan that will, in part, provide stability to resource management and development companies.

While recovery and management options have been developed and/or endorsed by the scientific community and other levels of government, some management options being considered for the remaining regional populations of the three species noted above may not meet the expectations of all stakeholders. It is anticipated there will be direct and indirect economic impacts to some industries, such as forestry, that are a direct outcome of certain recovery strategies. Further, other important issues, such as the mountain pine beetle epidemic and the effects of global warming, may also challenge provincial efforts for the management and recovery of species-at-risk.

Report on Performance

Bureau Performance Plan Summary Table

The table below summarizes the progress made by the Bureau in reaching its performance targets during 2006/07.

Goal 1: Citizen-centred delivery of natural resource application and information services For more detail see pages 21 to 23	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
1.1 FrontCounter BC natural resource application services that are client-centred, timely, high quality, responsive and efficient		
Median time (days) for land-use applications to receive a decision from the Bureau on applications for new authorizations adjudicated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	110 days	111 days Substantively Achieved
1.2 Crown land allocations that meet the needs of communities and First Nations and further economic development while respecting environmental values		
Percentage of new *Land Act* applications to the Bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands processed within 140 days	90%	89% Substantively Achieved

Goal 2: Sustainable natural resource management through planning, coordination and decision-making For more detail see pages 23 to 29	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
2.1 Priority strategic land and resource management plans finalized and presented to government for decision, then implemented and maintained to guide resource decision-making		
Percentage of B.C. covered by strategic land-use plans – existing or under development – that have been advanced to the implementation stage	80%	82% Achieved
2.2 Sustainable resource management plans that address resource-use conflicts, challenges and opportunities		
Percentage of B.C. covered by strategic land-use plans that have been revised to address new issues or environmental factors	14.4%	29.7% Exceeded
2.3 A planning, coordination and decision framework that furthers the New Relationship with First Nations		
Percentage of specified strategic land-use plans in which the Bureau has achieved the engagement of First Nations	82%	86% Achieved

Goal 2: Sustainable natural resource management through planning, coordination and decision-making For more detail see pages 23 to 29	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
2.4 Strategic leadership and corporate coordination of provincial programs for the management and recovery of broad-ranging species-at-risk		
Percentage of recovery plans for assigned, broad-ranging species-at-risk which have been brought forward to government for decision	33%	33% ACHIEVED

Goal 3: Integrated land and resource information For more detail see pages 30 to 32	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
3.1 Effective management and delivery of land and resource information, products, services and analyses that are fundamental to government, First Nations, industry, business and the public		
Percentage growth in the utilization of land and resource data, information and related products by public and government clients over 2005/06 base	20%	122% EXCEEDED
3.2 Effective regional provision of land and resource information, services and analyses that are fundamental to government, First Nations, industry, business and the public		
3.3 Leadership concerning information management to the land and resource sector		

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Citizen-centred delivery of natural resource application and information services

Under this goal, the Bureau provides all British Columbians with responsive and timely services concerning natural resources that integrate resource information and access to a wide range of authorizations previously provided by many ministries and agencies. Achievement of this goal will support the government-wide priority to provide better service to citizens, help reduce the regulatory burden and result in responsible economic development which respects social and environmental values.

Objective 1.1: FrontCounter BC natural resource application services that are client-centred, timely, high quality, responsive and efficient

Both the general public and business community expect public services that are timely, accessible, transparent and efficient, and provided by knowledgeable, courteous staff. Bureau clients have indicated a need for single-point-of-contact service for natural resources that ensures accurate up-front information, full disclosure of the steps and costs they face to proceed, reduced runaround time between agencies and streamlined application processes. These clients also expect the convenience of multiple access options. Achieving the objective will ensure that the Bureau's FrontCounter BC services are strongly citizen-driven with a consequent impact on all its business under Goal 1 and, indeed, its other goals.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 1.1 included:

- providing professional, knowledgeable, FrontCounter BC support to clients applying for, or seeking guidance about, natural resource-related tenures, permits, licences, Crown grants, sales and information;
- enhancing and expanding accessibility through the provision of multiple access channels such as face-to-face, telephone, internet and e-mail;
- ensuring services and delivery methods are modified and adjusted to meet the ongoing needs of clients and to ensure all FrontCounter BC services are delivered through a fair and transparent process; and
- enhancing collaboration and communication processes with partner agencies and external stakeholders.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Median time (days) for land-use applicants to receive a decision from the Bureau on applications for new authorizations adjudicated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	115 days[1]	110 days	111 days Substantively Achieved

Source: Land Tenure Turnaround Time Provincial Summary Report.

[1] The number of days was calculated using 2004/05 land application data from the former Land and Water BC.

Discussion of Results

This performance measure's result is a reflection of the success FrontCounter BC had in assisting businesses and individuals to prepare more complete applications for natural resource-use authorizations and in streamlining the processes in other ways so that less time is required by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands adjudication staff to review and decide on applications. The median measured the number of days of processing time within which 50 per cent of the applications in the year were processed. The target was 110 days or less, which was substantively achieved. This measure was modified in the 2007/08 – 2009/10 service plan to include those agreed turnaround processing times with other partner agencies.

Objective 1.2: Crown land allocations that meet the needs of communities and First Nations and further economic development while respecting environmental values

Under this objective, the Bureau focused specifically on how it managed *Land Act* adjudications for Crown land tenures, sales and grants on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The Bureau pursued this objective in order to meet the Crown land needs of communities and First Nations while supporting the province's economic development goals. Applications for Crown land access are required to meet guidelines aimed at ensuring balance, respect for environmental values, transparency and other factors.[8] Processing timeliness on *Land Act* applications and file adjudication is a key requirement of British Columbians, particularly the business community.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 1.2 included:

- actively supporting and responding to First Nations and community development opportunities and growth in new and emerging regional business sectors;

[8] Existing guidelines for adjudicating Crown land applications will be reviewed and amended where necessary. Adherence to these guidelines will be ensured through monitoring and auditing processes.

- making sure Crown land tenuring, sales and grants are undertaken in a timely and balanced manner to ensure conservation of environmental values, development and implementation of the New Relationship with First Nations, protection of social and community values, promotion of economic development and transparency of the process: and
- building market-based partnerships with the business community, local governments and First Nations.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage of new *Land Act* applications to the Bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands processed within 140 days	90%[1]	90%	89% Substantively Achieved

Source: Land Tenure Turnaround Time Provincial Summary Report.

[1] This baseline was adopted when the Bureau was formed in 2005 and is based on a similar target used by the former Land and Water BC.

Discussion of Results

This measure specifically addressed the timeliness of application processing for new Crown land use authorizations under the *Land Act* by the Bureau and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. It measures the time from when a client's application is accepted and fees received, to notification of an adjudication result and/or offer of a Crown land tenure or sale from the Bureau to the client. The target was substantively achieved.

Goal 2: Sustainable natural resource management through planning, coordination and decision-making

In support of this goal, the Bureau focused on achieving an effective balance between conserving environmental values, promoting the vitality and diversity of communities and furthering economic development. All of the activities under this goal worked toward reducing resource-use conflicts, improving certainty in the use of Crown natural resources, improving environmental sustainability and more efficiently delivering these outcomes.

Objective 2.1: Priority strategic land and resource management plans finalized and presented to government for decision, then implemented and maintained to guide resource decision-making

One of the main tasks assigned to the Bureau by government and the natural resource management agencies it serves is to facilitate completion and finalization of strategic land and resource management plans and to consult and engage First Nations throughout the planning process. Finalization and implementation of these plans will help ensure resource management decisions take into account the needs of communities, the economy and the environment, as well as First Nations' values and concerns, now and into the future. Having achieved approval of the Central Coast, North Coast, Sea-to-Sky (Phase I) and Morice land and resource management plans, the Bureau focused on the respective implementation plans during the past year. In addition, progress was made on the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands, Lillooet and Sea-to-Sky (Phase II) land and resource management plans.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 2.1 included:

- advancing from the "Province to First Nation" government-to-government negotiations stage to the implementation of the Central Coast, North Coast, Lillooet, Morice, Sea-to-Sky and Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands strategic land and resource-use management plans;
- overseeing implementation and revision of approved strategic-level land and resource-use management plans to maintain their effectiveness;
- reviewing and updating strategic land and resource management plans in areas impacted by mountain pine beetle as increased logging of killed timber has in most cases affected the timber supply projections on which these plans were based. The strategy also assisted in increasing public awareness of this important issue;
- reviewing and amending land and resource-use planning processes to make them more efficient and to involve First Nations on a government-to-government basis, thus furthering the New Relationship with First Nations;
- leading regionally based Inter-Agency Management Committees to coordinate government interests in the management of provincial natural resources;
- establishing and facilitating strategic land and resource plan implementation committees to maintain community and stakeholder involvement in the plans; and
- publicly communicating the provisions and benefits of each of these strategic land and resource-use plans and, more generally, the benefits of balanced utilization of natural resources in collaboration with work under other objectives and programs.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage of British Columbia covered by strategic land-use plans — existing or under development — that have been advanced to the implementation stage	73%	80%	82% ACHIEVED

Source: Progress on plans obtained from the *Report on the Status of Strategic Land Use Plans in British Columbia.*

Discussion of Results

With advancement of the Central and North Coast, Morice and Sea-to-Sky (Phase I) land and resource management plans, the area of the province now covered by these plans has reached 82 per cent. The only ones remaining are the Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands, Lillooet and Sea-to-Sky (Phase II) land and resource management plans, which are currently progressing in the government-to government negotiations stage. This means that the bulk of the province is now covered by strategic land-use plans that facilitate access to, and use of Crown land and resources, particularly where competition between commercial and public interests for these resources is strong.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable resource management plans that address resource-use conflicts, challenges and opportunities

Sustainable resource management plans[9] that support economic development and/or address resource-use conflicts are also important to achieving Goal 2. These plans are prepared at a finer scale and identify where and how land and resources should be managed to promote resource-use certainty and economic activity and to sustain environmental values, including maintaining critical habitat for specific species and identifying areas for commercial and public recreation. Their scope and planning boundaries are driven by these specific resource issues, conflicts and opportunities under study. Completion of sustainable resource management plans involve partnerships and consultation with interested First Nations and contain policies and guidelines supporting sustainable resource management.

[9] Sustainable resource management plans include a number of specific plan types, including local strategic plans, recreation conflict management plans, oil and gas pre-tenure plans, economic opportunity plans and coastal plans. Some other ministries develop resource plans, but these are lower-level plans that are more operational in nature and focused on delivering a specific program. They cover a much smaller area than land and resource management plans, sustainable resource management plans or regional land-use plans, and tend to focus on a specific activity. Examples include park management plans, fire management plans and forest health plans.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 2.2 included:

- establishing legal objectives for Old Growth Management Areas and other biological targets that are consistent with approved land and resource management plans, thereby supporting implementation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*;
- setting priorities for sustainable resource management planning within available resources to support government requirements and requests from clients;
- reviewing and or revising strategic land-use plans for new issues such as mountain pine beetle impacts;
- supporting amendments to government policies or legislation to ensure sustainable access to Crown land or resources for development; and
- developing stakeholder-endorsed implementation criteria to support plan implementation.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage of British Columbia covered by strategic land-use plans that have been revised to address new issues or environmental factors (e.g., mountain pine beetle impacts)	0	14.4% (5 plans)	29.7% (8 plans) EXCEEDED

Source: Progress on plans obtained from the *Report on the Status of Strategic Land Use Plans in British Columbia.*

Discussion of Results

The Bureau made significant progress in reviewing and/or revising existing and approved land and resource management plans in forested areas impacted by mountain pine beetle. This work is required in order to secure future economic development opportunities and to maintain public support for the plans and the timber salvage program. Increased logging of killed timber has in many cases affected the timber supply projections on which these plans were based and other resource values. In future, reviews of these plans for mountain pine beetle impacts will be done on an as-needed basis and when funding allows. This measure was not included in the 2007/08 – 2009/10 service plan.

Objective 2.3: A planning, coordination and decision framework that furthers the New Relationship with First Nations

Under this objective, the Bureau sought greater engagement of First Nations in land and resource-use planning, with particular emphasis on the strategic level. *The New Relationship — Vision and Principles* document makes clear that land and resources are vital to

First Nations. It commits both parties to "mutually develop [amongst other things], integrated intergovernmental structures and policies to promote co-operation, including practical and workable arrangements for land and resource decision making and sustainable development" (p.3). The first item in the New Relationship action plan is to "develop new institutions and structures to negotiate Government-to-Government Agreements for shared decision making regarding land-use planning, management, tenuring and resource revenue and benefit sharing" (p.4).

The Bureau is working with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and First Nations bodies to develop these new institutions and structures. It is an evolving process. Continued and improved engagement of First Nations in the provincial land and resource-use planning processes will be an important component of New Relationship implementation.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 2.3 included:

- engaging First Nations in land and resource management planning, consistent with the New Relationship, by undertaking a number of exploratory initiatives which build on existing relationships, in government-to-government forums and, where appropriate, at regional or local planning tables and committees;
- collaborating with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation in developing more effective mechanisms to fulfil the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate for *Land Act* dispositions;
- coordinating cross government discussion on new land and resource development referral approaches through regional Inter-Agency Management Committees;
- assisting the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation with negotiating accommodation on high-priority plans and projects;
- assisting the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation with cross government coordination of New Relationship implementation in the resources sector through regional Inter-Agency Management and Sub-regional Managers Committees; and
- enhancing collaboration and communication with New Relationship stakeholders to expedite land-use plan implementation.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage of specified strategic land-use plans in which the Bureau has achieved the engagement of First Nations[1]	100% (6 out of 6 plans)	82% (9 out of 11 plans)	86% (12 out of 14 plans) ACHIEVED

Source: Progress on plans obtained from the *Report on the Status of Strategic Land Use Plans in British Columbia.*

[1] Specified plans are those that have been developed or revised since 2004 / 05, or are under development or revision and have completed the planning table stage.

Discussion of Results

The Bureau achieved its target of having a majority of strategic land-use plans under development or revision that involved the engagement of First Nations in their preparation, either at the planning table stage, in subsequent government-to-government negotiations, or both. It is a basic measure of the New Relationship as it applies to natural resource management. The measure was refined in the 2007/08 – 2009/10 service plan to expand the type of First Nations engagement to cover more than just engagement through participation in land-use planning. It now also covers the number of agreements dealing with resource information and partnerships.

Objective 2.4: Strategic leadership and corporate coordination of provincial programs for the management and recovery of broad-ranging species-at-risk

The Bureau pursued this objective to improve the chances and/or rate of recovery of species-at-risk and Crown land resource access as well as reduce resource-use conflicts. Striving for this objective will improve resource-use certainty, community stability and environmental sustainability with consequent benefits to all sectors of the provincial resource economy and to the public at large.

To achieve these outcomes the Bureau worked with the Ministry of Environment and other natural resource ministries in the development of an outcomes-based, coordinated, scientifically credible and defensible approach to the management and recovery of species-at-risk in B.C.

The aim of this coordination is to ensure that not only biodiversity, but also social and economic values, importance to First Nations, and technical feasibility of management and recovery are taken into account to achieve desired outcomes.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 2.4 included:

- developing a proposed policy and fiscal framework for prioritizing and coordinating the management of species-at-risk and the ecosystems on which they depend by working across provincial government agencies, First Nations, communities and key stakeholders; and
- developing recovery options for three key broad-ranging species — mountain caribou, northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet — by working with key provincial agencies, First Nations and non-government stakeholders and bringing forward these options to government for decision.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage of recovery plans for assigned, broad-ranging species-at-risk which have been brought forward to government for decision	0	33%	33% ACHIEVED

Source: Integrated Land Management Bureau.

Discussion of Results

This measure indicates progress made by the Bureau in developing and presenting to government recovery plans for key, broad-ranging species-at-risk that require broad, cross government actions and leadership. The Bureau achieved its target of presenting the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan to government during 2006/07. With government approval came a $3.4 million, five-year action plan, which was announced in April 2006. This action plan will initiate measures to re-build spotted owl populations, evaluate and revise existing spotted owl management areas to ensure they better protect owls, and continue detailed site-by-site analysis in consultation with Environment Canada. Recovery plans are under development for the mountain caribou in 2007/08 and the marbled murrelet in 2008/09.

Goal 3: Integrated land and resource information

Under this goal, widely available, high quality, correctly interpreted and easy-to-understand information is key to effective, efficient, balanced and equitable planning and management of Crown land and resources.

Objective 3.1: Effective management and delivery of land and resource information,[10] products, services and analyses that are fundamental to government, First Nations, industry, business and the public

The effective management and delivery of resource information to clients is one of two similar objectives pursued by the Bureau under Goal 3. It concerns resource information managed and delivered across the provincial government and on a province-wide basis, largely through integrated web-based systems.[11] The same information, and local derivatives and analyses developed from it, is delivered regionally and is covered under Objective 3.2. Understanding and meeting the needs of clients is crucial to achieving this and the next objective.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 3.1 included:

- improving the marketing, management and delivery of corporate resource information services to both internal and external clients through better communication and consultation. This strategy helps to ensure the Bureau focuses on clients and builds its products and services in response to their feedback;
- managing and maintaining land and resource data holdings. This is to ensure that the provincial data the Bureau is responsible for are adequately maintained to meet both government and public needs. Within this scope is base-mapping data, warehoused information and repository (catalogue and related metadata) information; and
- enhancing and delivering self-service, web-based access and analytical tools that meet client needs.

[10] Includes base-mapping, registry, air and ortho-photography, survey control points, global positioning systems support, geographical (place) names and related resource information.

[11] These include the Land and Resource Data Warehouse and the Integrated Land and Resource Registry.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2005/06 Baseline	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Percentage growth in the utilization of land and resource data, information and related products by public and government clients over 2005/06 base	450,000 images	20% (540,000 images)	122% (1,003,640 images) EXCEEDED

Source: iMap BC

Discussion of Results

This performance measure gauges growth in the utilization of land and resource data, information and related products and, therefore, provides an indication of the usefulness of the land and resource services to the Bureau's clients. The measure uses an extensively accessed resource information tool – images generated by iMap BC – as a proxy indicator of the growth in overall utilization of land and resource information provided by the Bureau.[12] The large increase in the use of iMap BC was due to a greater-than-anticipated uptake by education and industry clients. A revised performance measure inserted in the 2007/08–2009/10 service plan broadens the scope of the projected growth measurement of information access. The new measure records the growth in the number of times the Natural Resource Information Centre is accessed. The Natural Resource Information Centre incorporates iMap BC, the Integrated Land and Resource Registry, Distribution Service and the Base Map Online Store.

Objective 3.2: Effective regional provision of land and resource information, services and analyses that are fundamental to government, First Nations, industry, business and the public

Similar to Objective 3.1, Bureau staff from regional offices deliver the same land and resource information, including local derivatives and analyses. They provide this through FrontCounter BC offices as well as in information packages to support strategic and land and resource-use planning projects. Supplying effective land and resource information, services and related analysis results in more fully informed regional clients, better decision-making and reduced application processing times.

[12] iMap BC is a web- and map-based tool used to access information in the Land and Resource Data Warehouse. The measure represents the number of images iMap BC draws for users of the Land and Resource Data Warehouse. It is a popular means of accessing Terrain Resources Information Management (TRIM) map sheets and other base layers as well as additional resource data layers, so it is a reasonable proxy for the mapping and resource information aspects of the Bureau's business. iMap BC was made available to the public in May 2006.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 3.2 included:

- supporting regionally managed land and resource planning projects;
- providing resource information and associated maps to regional clients;
- undertaking analyses concerning natural resources for business or individual clients using geographic and other information systems; and
- coordinating regional land and resource data collection issues, including setting standards, performing quality control, liaising with information providers and building land and resource information partnerships.

Objective 3.3: Le dership concerning information management to the land and resource sector

Under this objective, the Bureau focused on programs which provide overall governance across the province concerning standards, systems and pricing for the collection, storage and delivery of land and resource information.

Strategies

Key strategies employed towards achieving Objective 3.3 included:

- establishing a sector-level Natural Resource Information Council with membership from government, industry and the public to address business, information and system issues/needs from a sector-level perspective;
- improving public access to provincial land and resource information by establishing a single gateway to resource sector information products and services;
- improving the usability of land and resource information products and services by establishing the necessary common information policy, standards, procedures and best business practices that are needed to ensure data from different sources can be integrated;
- continuing to manage the provincial Land and Resource Data Warehouse and associated catalogue; and
- working closely with partners to champion cross government approaches, integrate existing information technology and management applications and coordinate development of new information technology and management systems being used to manage land and resource information.

Report on Resources

Resource Summary 2006/07 — Integrated Land Management Bureau

The Resource Summary table below outlines the expenditures by core business area. The Integrated Land Management Bureau operates under its own vote within the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (see Part B) as specified in the *Estimates*.

Core Business Area	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Regional Client Services	17,968	3,811	21,779	24,126	2,347
Strategic Land and Resource Planning	8,858	33,200	42,058	42,430	372
Species-at-Risk Coordination	1,210		1,210	1,614	404
Corporate Resource Information Management	17,813		17,813	15,202	(2,611)
Bureau Management	13,135	820	13,955	13,443	(512)
Total	**58,984**	**37,831**	**96,815**	**96,815**	**0**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)					
Regional Client Services[1]	189		189	301	112
Strategic Land and Resource Planning	12		12	18	6
Species-at-Risk Coordination	5		5	5	0
Corporate Resource Information Management	124		124	113	(11)
Bureau Management	17		17	16	(1)
Total	**347**		**347**	**453**	**106**
Bureau Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Regional Client Services	765		765	804	39
Strategic Land and Resource Planning				5	5
Species-at-Risk Coordination					
Corporate Resource Information Management	6,319		6,319	5,958	(361)
Bureau Management	1,678		1,678	1,119	(559)
Total	**8,762**	**0**	**8,762**	**7,886**	**(876)**

[1] 96 FTEs were reassigned from Crown Land Administration in the Ministry Operations Vote to the Integrated Land Management Bureau during 2006 / 07. The FTE actual reflects this reallocation of resources. Additional FTEs were utilized in place of contracted resources.

Comments and Explanations

Operating Expenditure Variances

Other Authorizations includes the following amounts charged against the Contingencies (All Ministries) and New Programs vote: $3.8 million for First Nations New Relationships, $30.0 million for Conservation Investment and Incentives Initiative, $3.2 million for Land and Resource Management Planning, and $0.8 million for the negotiated salary costs.

Overall the Integrated Land Management Bureau was fully spent with no variance due to approved contingencies access.

Significant variances of actual expenditures exceeding budget include $2.3 million due to First Nations New Relationships initiatives and other land-based priorities (Regional Client Services and Strategic Land and Resource Planning), and $0.4 million increased spending on initiatives in support of Fraser basin owl (Species at Risk Coordination). These variances are offset by savings of $2.6 million in amortization costs due to large systems development projects that did not complete as originally planned (Corporate Resource Information Management) and other savings in Bureau Management.

Capital Expenditure Variances

Capital variances in Corporate Resource Information Management and Bureau Management are the result of lower than anticipated spending on information systems.

Recoveries and Revenues

Through partnerships and other arrangements with various organizations, the Bureau provided services and then recovered some or all of its costs. The recoveries amounted to a total of $20.3 million in 2006/07. Principal items included $5.3 million in funding from the Forest Investment Account for land and resource-use planning and information services and $8.4 million from Crown Land Administration in the Ministry Operations Vote for regional adjudication services in Regional Client Services.

The Bureau also collected revenues of about $0.2 million from a number of sources, including map and air photo sales.

Core Business Areas

To achieve its goals and objectives, the Bureau provides services through five core business areas.

1. Regional Client Services

The Bureau provides clients throughout B.C.'s eight major geographic regions with coordinated information and access to provincial natural resources on behalf of a number of provincial ministries and agencies. It does this through four broad but integrated approaches, including: assisting clients with the processing of applications for land and resource-use authorizations; making decisions on tenures and sales of Crown land under the *Land Act* on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands; providing land and resource information and analytical services to internal and external clients; and developing landscape-level land and resource-use plans and facilitating implementation of strategic land-use plans to support the sustainable economic development of provincial natural resources.

This core business area is coordinated and delivered by the Bureau with input from regionally-based Inter-Agency Management Committees or Sub-regional Managers Committees, chaired and managed by senior regional Bureau staff.

2. Strategic Land and Resource Planning

The Bureau focuses on high-priority strategic land and resource management planning. Four main functions are involved, each of which incorporates and supports the New Relationship with First Nations, including: finalizing strategic land and resource plans for government decision, reviewing and amending strategic land and resource plans, undertaking related strategic plan implementation projects at the request of government, and leading marine coastal planning in B.C.

3. Species-at-Risk Coordination

The Species-at-Risk Coordination Office works with other agencies to manage the province's globally significant, broad-ranging species-at-risk and provides responsible, balanced access to Crown land and resources.[13] The Bureau coordinates corporate development and implementation of recovery plans for three priority species: mountain caribou, northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

[13] The management of species-at-risk is traditionally a Ministry of Environment-led function as the vast majority of the science-supporting implementation tasks and actions to address species-at-risk are accomplished cooperatively with leadership from that ministry. However, government has recognized that actions and resources required to address broad-ranging species-at-risk need to be coordinated and corporate in nature. The Bureau has been given a mandate to develop recovery plans for broad-ranging species-at-risk on behalf of the partner agencies to which it provides service.

4. Corporate Resource Information Management

Through this core business, the Bureau captures, integrates, manages and warehouses provincial land and resource information, and delivers this information to government and non-government clients using a variety of means, including web-based tools.

These functions are provided through the Chief Resource Information Office for natural resource ministries as a single-window access to land and resource information (Land and Resource Data Warehouse,[14] Integrated Land and Resource Registry,[15] GIS analysis services and the Integrated Cadastral Initiative[16]). The Bureau is also the provincial government agency accountable for providing spatial base mapping,[17] land survey control, global-positioning quality control systems and air and ortho-photo management to a wide range of internal and external users of landscape information across all sectors.

5. Bureau Management

This business unit includes the Office of the Associate Deputy Minister and a portion of Corporate Services Division (finance, facilities, etc.). The latter is a shared service and also serves the Ministries of Agriculture and Lands, and Environment. The Bureau Management unit includes the Project Management Office, a small team of headquarters-based Bureau staff who provide project management services, corporate project management, strategic business planning, website oversight, performance monitoring and issues management.

[14] The Land and Resource Data Warehouse is the corporate repository for integrated land, resource and geographic data that support a variety of business requirements for the natural resource sector, other government agencies, industry and the public.

[15] The Integrated Land and Resource Registry is a web-based query and access tool that provides an integrated view of over 260 different legal land and resource tenures, licences and leases on Crown land.

[16] Includes the Integrated Cadastral Fabric, the result of a partnership between the provincial government and local government that provides an integrated and geo-referenced link between privately-owned property and Crown land.

[17] Base mapping services provide critical map data utilized by all sectors of the economy, including mining, oil and gas exploration, forestry, utilities and transportation. It is a critical foundation geographic tool that is essential for resource management, other provincial government services such as emergency response, community planning and development, and First Nations treaty development.

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Part B:
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Highlights of the Year

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food

While only a small amount of British Columbia's land base is arable, we produce some of the highest quality and diverse agriculture, aquaculture and food products in the world. The farm landscapes provide valuable green space and environmental values within communities and provide residents with a ready supply of healthy, fresh and nutritious foods and other products through local farm markets, direct off-the-farm sales, retailers and supermarkets.

The industry continues to remain strong and recorded $2.7 billion in farm receipts in 2006, up more than $300 million from 2001 when the last census was conducted. The sector is facing short-term declines in profitability in the face of rising input costs and other challenges yet the future of agriculture in British Columbia is bright.

Industry Competitiveness and Self-reliance: Finding new markets and developing new and better products are essential to success in the marketplace. Last year, the Ministry worked with industry associations to develop an innovation strategy that will focus research and development on the needs of the sector. A tree fruit strategy and beef cattle industry strategy were developed by the sector with support from the Ministry. New and emerging sectors were promoted through a pilot to test the feasibility of growing wine grapes in the Lytton-Lillooet area, an assessment of the potential for expansion in the functional foods (foods that provide benefits beyond basic nutrition) and natural health products sector, and piloting a biofuels initiative in the interior. The Summer Extension Assistant Program was initiated last year to provide direct, hands-on service and advice to producers and will be expanded to include a total of 16 extension specialists in 2007/08.

B.C. continued to address issues and barriers to interprovincial trade in agriculture products with the B.C. – Alberta Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement which was signed in April 2006 and came into effect on April 1, 2007. The Ministry also led the development of the plurilateral Interim Agreement on Internal Trade in Agriculture and Food Goods which came into effect in July 2006. These agreements will strengthen trade between provinces. New, province-wide health regulation for meat processing will come into effect in September 2007, and the Ministry assisted the sector in meeting these new requirements with the Meat Industry Enhancement Strategy.

Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan: The Ministry supported a pilot project to convert six half sections of Crown forests to private farmland near Vanderhoof.

Strong Community Support: Last year, there was considerable public controversy over the future of agricultural land in B.C. This underscores the need to work closely with local governments and communities to find solutions that safeguard the future of agriculture and achieve broader

community objectives. A total of 27 Agricultural Advisory Committees are now working with local government to resolve local issues, improve understanding of agriculture and plan for its future. The Ministry also worked directly with the city of Delta to create the precedent-setting rural residential bylaw in Delta which helps to preserve the integrity of agricultural land by limiting the size and location of residential buildings on farmland. In four other communities planning is underway that explicitly considers the needs of the agriculture sector. All of these efforts are part of B.C.'s Strengthening Farming Program which was presented as a success story at the United Nations World Urban Forum in Vancouver and the World Planners Congress in 2006. The Ministry also announced a new Provincial Fair Program to showcase B.C.'s agriculture and the products it offers.

Strong Environmental Performance: The agriculture, aquaculture and food sector is adopting world-leading practices that will sustain the environment. By the end of last year, 1,565 B.C. farms voluntarily developed Environmental Farm Plans. The program has spent $26 million, of which producers have spent $18.3 million, to better protect the environment. In remote coastal communities, where economic opportunities are often limited, the salmon aquaculture industry operates in high compliance with some of the world's most stringent environmental standards according to the latest Annual Report on Marine Finfish Inspections. All aquaculture operators now have Fish Health Management Plans which are audited by ministry fish health experts. The first Fish Health Report for B.C. was publicly released in late 2006 and shows that B.C.'s results-based regulatory regime is working well.

Agricultural Systems that Safeguard Animal, Plant and Human Health: The goal of the Ministry is for British Columbia to continue to be recognized as a producer of safe food and agricultural products. Last year, significant gains were made. Construction of a $14.5-million high security Containment Level 3 lab in Abbotsford is underway which will enable more extensive analysis of disease-causing agents, and enable analysis to be done more safely and rapidly. At a national level, B.C. is working towards development of a National Animal Health Strategy. To further protect against disease risks, the Ministry, in concert with other provincial and federal agencies, developed an action plan to improve B.C.'s response to the incursion of foreign animal diseases (Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support plan). This work was recognized with the Regulatory Excellence Award presented to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by the Community of Federal Regulators.

The Ministry continued to support the development of a National Agri-Food Traceability System. To protect the livestock industry, B.C. completed a traceability plan and promoted age verification of cattle. Last year, a single case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy was detected and dealt with promptly before any tissues entered the animal feed or human food chain.

Collectively these initiatives will allow the province to more effectively protect animal and human health through greater coordination between agencies, more effective monitoring, and speedier response to disease occurrences.

Invasive Plants: The Ministry led provincial efforts to control invasive plants with the implementation of a Plant Health Strategy for B.C. and by promoting coordination, awareness and action on invasive plants through local weed committees. The Invasive Species Outreach Program was launched to improve awareness of invasive plants in the gardening community.

ActNow: Awareness was raised among children and young adults of the benefits of healthy eating through the innovative School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program. The program has proved successful and was expanded to more schools.

Securing our Future: A secure future for agriculture, aquaculture and food production in B.C. was sought through several longer-term initiatives.

- The Agricultural Planning Committee met and spoke with hundreds of British Columbians over the year to create an Agriculture Plan that will position B.C. for success in the future. Work is also underway to develop a long-term strategic Aquaculture Plan to help guide industry and government to create a brighter future for the sector. Both plans will be released in the coming year.
- The Province is working towards a new national policy framework for the agriculture and food sector. The national framework is a foundation for working together with the federal government and will ensure that they are strong contributors to the development of B.C.'s agriculture and food sector. The current Implementation Agreement, under which most joint federal-provincial programs are funded, expires in March 2008.

Crown Land Administration

Within the Ministry, the Crown Land Administration Division is responsible for the legislative and policy framework which guides decisions about Crown land use, managing contaminated sites on Crown land and facilitating major Crown land disposition proposals.

Modern Crown Land Policy: The Ministry initiated several projects to improve services to citizens. The principles guiding Crown land decisions were reviewed and opportunities for streamlining and improvement were identified. Operational policies were also reviewed. To date, five of the 21 operational policies guiding Crown land dispositions have been reviewed. A new Crown land sales policy and policy and guidelines for ocean and energy wind power were developed to guide Crown land decisions. The quality of service to citizens was improved by streamlining application packages and providing easier access to information through the Internet.

Contaminated Sites: The Ministry continued to make progress in cleaning up and restoring Crown contaminated sites. Since the inception of the Crown Contaminated Sites program in 2003, remediation work has been completed at the Pitt River landfill site on the lower mainland and in Goose Bay, a former cannery and fishing camp located on the central coast. Remediation is currently underway for another 24 contaminated sites.

Major progress has been made on the Britannia Mine near Squamish, Pacific Place located on the former Expo lands in Vancouver, and the Malakwa landfill site on the Eagle River east of Sicamous. The Ministry won three awards in 2006 for the Britannia Mine Remediation Project, an innovative public-private partnership agreement with EPCOR Britannia Water Inc. for the construction and operation of the Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant. The project has reduced the discharge of heavy metals into Howe Sound by an estimated 95 per cent and has acted as a catalyst for community redevelopment.

In February 2007, the Ministry initiated development of a provincial strategy to put back into productive use vacant or under-utilized commercial and industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination. These properties differ from other contaminated sites in that they hold active potential for redevelopment.

Crown Land Opportunities: In June 2006, the Ministry helped plan the transfer of Crown land from the Ministry of Forests and Range Green Timbers site for the construction of a new outpatient hospital in Surrey. The phased sale of Crown land for a mixed-use residential development and park, completed in 2006, has helped revitalize the Songhees neighbourhood in Victoria.

Other Initiatives

New Relationship: The Ministry continued to build partnerships with First Nations and aboriginal people and ensured that legal obligations to consult with First Nations and accommodate their interests were met. In 2006/07 agreement was reached with Homalco Band and Mowachat-Muchalat Band on outstanding aquaculture issues.

Agricultural opportunities for First Nations were promoted. The First Nations Community Food Systems for Healthy Living and the First Nations 2010 Agriculture Initiative were initiated to promote community food systems that will improve people's health, self-sufficiency and create economic opportunity.

Purpose of Ministry

The mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is to:

- promote economic development and environmental sustainability for the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors, supporting them in delivering safe, healthy and high-quality food; and
- manage Crown land in a manner that contributes to the economic, societal and environmental goals of government.

Our Vision

"World-leading stewardship of land, farm and food systems for the health and prosperity of British Columbians."

Our Mission

"To promote sustainable agriculture food systems and to provide a balanced approach that promotes the sustainable use of Crown land resources."

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food

The Ministry fulfills its agriculture, aquaculture and food mandate by developing policy and effective regulations to achieve government goals and through the delivery of programs and services to the sector.

This includes:

- maintaining access to markets and facilitating innovation within the sector by supporting research and ensuring that producers have access to information required to make better business decisions;
- promoting practices and tools that achieve environmental sustainability;
- promoting practices, tools and delivery of services that maintain plant, animal and human health and minimize the risk of disease and pathogen occurrences; and
- maintaining effective and responsive risk management programs so that producers can manage weather, market and disaster events.

Crown Land Administration

The Ministry is also responsible for the administration of Crown land. Its primary activities in this area are to develop policy to guide the allocation of Crown land and to support implementation, including developing policy to promote effective involvement of First Nations. This focus is essential to improving the global competitiveness of British Columbia, enhancing our ability to attract private investment and stimulating economic growth, while balancing environmental and societal values. As part of this mandate, the Ministry is also responsible for managing contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province.

Working in Partnership

The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands works closely with a range of federal, provincial and sectoral agencies and associations. Effective relationships with these partners are vital to the success of the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors and for delivery of Crown land programs.

- The Ministry works with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, the BC Ministry of Health and the BC Provincial Emergency Program on animal, plant and human health issues.
- A wide range of associations are essential partners in identifying sector needs and issues and, in many cases, assist in the delivery of programs and services.
- The Ministry works closely with the Ministry of Forests and Range on range issues and on the Mountain Pine Beetle Action Plan.
- The Ministry leads the coordination of provincial priorities, initiatives and action plans to eradicate and contain invasive plants on crown lands.
- The Ministry works closely with several other ministries as lead of the provincial program for management of Crown contaminated sites.
- The Ministry utilized a public-private partnership for the construction and operation of a water treatment plant at Britannia Mine and is exploring additional partnership opportunities for cost-effective delivery of the Crown Contaminated Sites Program.

Strategic Context

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Food

A goal of the Ministry is to sustain and facilitate the growth and diversification of the agriculture, aquaculture and food sector while increasing public awareness, understanding and support for the agriculture and food production systems in B.C. Access to safe, locally produced food, an emphasis on healthy eating and a shared understanding of urban and rural interests are essential to the long-term growth and sustainability of agriculture. Continued cooperation and dialogue between industry and government is also key. Last year saw a range of conditions and events that affected the sector.

Strong Global Competition and Market Prices: B.C.'s agriculture and seafood industries compete in international markets where competitors with similar or lower cost structures enjoy greater economies of scale and create downward pressures on food commodity prices. In addition, domestic policy and high levels of subsidy in other jurisdictions may have a direct impact on the ability of B.C. producers to compete. Last year saw low prices for many commodities and the high value of the Canadian dollar relative to competitors created a challenging year for the sector.

Continued High Price of Fuel and other Inputs: With a booming economy, high fuel costs, higher interest rates and shortages in labour for many sectors, operating costs have increased and securing local workers has become more difficult than ever for many producers.

Shared Jurisdiction and Interests: The Ministry shares jurisdiction with the federal government over aspects of agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, health and food safety. The complexity of issues affecting the sector requires effective coordination with partners to ensure a consistent and effective response to issues and opportunities. The province works collaboratively with federal agencies to ensure that both levels of government have a coordinated approach to addressing shared issues and objectives. While this approach leads to better policy and a more effective response overall, it can be time consuming.

Working in Partnership with the Sector: For many programs and initiatives, strong sector partnerships are essential to success. The agriculture, aquaculture and food sector is represented by commodity based and more broad associations and councils. The Ministry can more quickly identify needs and issues and deliver programs and services by working directly with these partners. At the same time, the Ministry and government in general have less control over the implementation of programs and services as greater responsibilities fall to sector partners. In many cases programs and initiatives are cost-shared with producers and participation is not mandatory. The speed at which implementation occurs can be directly affected by the financial state of individual businesses and the sector.

Diversity of the Sector: The sector includes small family farms, large commercial enterprises and all elements of the value chain. The province has thriving producers, processors, distributors, retailers that serve a local population and international markets with varying and changing demands.

In addition to the more widely recognized forms of agriculture such as livestock, dairy, poultry, tree fruits and horticulture, the sector includes the raising of fish, shellfish and marine plants, and non-food products such as biofuel, medicinal and ornamental plants. A rich combination of traditional and modern production practices can be found and, in some areas, the world looks to us as leaders in the application of new technology and practices.

This diversity is a strength of the agriculture, aquaculture and food sector and affords greater stability overall. At the same time, this poses a challenge to the province since regulations, policies and services need to be responsive to the specific needs of a diverse sector.

A Focus on Health and Buying Locally: Awareness regarding the benefits of healthier lifestyles is growing and this is leading to changes in eating habits and consumer preferences. Demand for locally produced food is growing. Last year, farmers' markets alone contributed $65.3 million in direct spending to the provincial economy and there are now some 100 markets across the province representing an increase of over 65 per cent since 2000. These trends create a tremendous opportunity for the sector.

Urban/Agriculture Interactions: A large portion of B.C.'s most productive farmlands are in close proximity to urban developments and other sectors of the economy. With a growing economy, burgeoning communities and rising prices for land, there is increased pressure on agricultural land and resources. These changes also increase the potential for conflict between agriculture, the community and other sectors. Noise conflicts, increased demand on water supplies traditionally used for agricultural purposes, growing concern over air quality and emissions and the growing demand from other sectors to take agricultural lands out of production can affect the overall sustainability of the agriculture sector.

Weather-related risks: The agriculture, aquaculture and food sector is vulnerable to weather-related risks. Hail in early summer affected quality of the apple crop in the Okanagan while the Peace River saw drought conditions that reduced grain and forage yields creating a shortage of hay and other feedstocks for cattle and dairy producers. Severe winter storms damaged shellfish aquaculture operations in some coastal regions and record rainfall resulted in localized flooding. As a result, B.C. saw a 2.5 per cent decline in the value of B.C.'s crop receipts in 2006 compared to 2005. As the year came to a close and temperatures warmed, B.C.'s record snowpack posed a risk of flooding in some parts of the province.

Crown Lands

Approximately 94 per cent of British Columbia's land base is managed by the Province on behalf of the citizens of B.C. Over 20 different economic sectors and every community in the province depend to some degree on continued access to Crown land and wise management of the resource. The allocation and administration of Crown land plays a pivotal role in expanding and diversifying the economy, sustaining the environment and promoting the health and well-being of citizens and communities. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is responsible for administering the legislative and policy framework which guides decisions about how Crown land is tenured and sold, managing contaminated sites on Crown land, and facilitating major Crown land disposition proposals. During the past year, a number of strategic factors have impacted the Ministry's core business in the Crown land sector.

Commitment to First Nations: The Province has made a commitment to strengthen its relationship with First Nations with a focus on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal title and rights. The Ministry supports this new relationship by addressing the potential impact of Crown land tenures and sales on Aboriginal communities and their traditional use of land. This commitment significantly impacted Ministry workloads and, in some circumstances, has resulted in time delays in land adjudication and aquaculture.

Growing Demand for Crown Land: Strong commodity markets, particularly in energy and minerals, have resulted in high levels of demand for the Province's resource planning and tenuring services. Industry clients are also demanding greater ease of access and the ability to work more closely with the Province.

Diversity of Client Groups: The use of Crown land evolves over time in response to government priorities, societal shifts, new technologies and consumer demand. In the past, the allocation of Crown land has been slow to accommodate new land uses and business requirements. One of the key priorities of the Ministry is to provide land disposition staff with greater flexibility to meet the unique needs of their clients by enabling them to make decisions based on broad principles, rather than prescriptive operating procedures. There are opportunities to improve service to clients, but the diversity of client groups can affect the speed of improvements.

A Legacy of Contamination: The Province has inherited a legacy of contaminated Crown lands from a time when people weren't as aware of the environmental implications of certain land uses. The sheer number of contaminated sites and time required to effectively remediate known sites affects the rate at which site remediation can be accomplished.

Report on Performance

Performance Plan Summary Table

Goal 1: Competitive, world class agriculture and food sectors For more detail see pages 52 to 58	**2006/07 Target**	**2006/07 Actual**
Dollar value of industry investment	Agriculture: Growth above a 3-year moving average	1% growth ACHIEVED
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing: Growth above a 3-year moving average	-1.5% growth NOT ACHIEVED
1.1 Strengthened innovation within the agriculture and food sectors Dollar value of ministry investment in Research and Development and in related scientific activities	Growth above a 3-year moving average	26.4% growth ACHIEVED
1.2 Effective management of farm business and income risks Per cent eligible crops insured under Production Insurance	70%	76% EXCEEDED
Per cent of B.C. farm cash receipts covered by Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program (excluding supply-managed commodities)	85%	83% SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED
1.3 Enhance international reputation for the quality of B.C. products and improved market access Dollar value of international exports in agriculture and food sectors	4% growth	3.2% growth SUBSTANTIVELY ACHIEVED
1.4 British Columbians value and support agriculture Number of agricultural advisory committees	26	27 EXCEEDED

Goal 2: Agriculture and food systems that are environmentally sustainable and promote human, plant and animal health For more detail see pages 58 to 61	**2006/07 Target**	**2006/07 Actual**
2.1 Effective management of environmental risks Per cent of finfish farms in full compliance with best management practice plans	95% of sites	99% EXCEEDED
Number of farms with environmental farm plans	800 completed 200 implemented	1,565 300 EXCEEDED
2.2 Effective management of plant, animal and food safety risks. Number of commodity groups implementing a national on-farm food safety and quality program	7 commodity groups	7 ACHIEVED

Goal 3: Coordinated Crown land administration and allocation that optimizes the flow of sustainable benefits for British Columbia For more detail see pages 61 to 63	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
An effective Crown land allocation framework	*Completion of* policy analysis	*Substantively* Achieved
3.1 Crown land use and allocation policy that reflects the provincial interest		
3.2 Crown land disposition that reflects the provincial interest		

Goal 4: A centre of excellence promoting sustainability through the management and remediation of contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province For more detail see pages 63 to 64	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
4.1 Contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province are managed to eliminate human health risks, enhance environmental sustainability and foster economic development		
Number of priority sites for which remediation is underway/completed	17 underway/ completed	26 Exceeded

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

Goal 1: Competitive, world class agriculture and food sectors

Competitiveness and self-reliance are the foundation for long-term profitability and for sustaining the economic, social and environmental values that the agriculture and food sector provides to communities across the province.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual[2]
Dollar value of industry investment[1]				
Agriculture	$209.7 million	$220.0 million	Growth above a 3-year rolling average	1% growth $222.3 million ACHIEVED
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	$159.4 million	$159.7 million	Growth above a 3-year rolling average	-1.5% growth $157.3 million NOT ACHIEVED

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Private and Public Investment in Canada – Catalogue 61-205. Special Tabulation.

[1] Does not include aquaculture (statistics not collected currently).

[2] Actuals for 2004/05 are based on an annual average over a three year period including actuals for 2002, 2003, and 2004. Actuals for 2005/06 are based on an annual average over a three year period including actuals for 2003, 2004 and 2005. Actuals for 2006/07 are based on preliminary actuals for 2006.

Discussion of Results

Dollar value of industry investment: The value of new investment in labour and capital provides a useful indicator of market conditions within B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors. Growth in capital expenditures is an indicator of the confidence that businesses have in future market opportunities. The fluctuations in investment levels can vary tremendously so a three-year average is used to develop a clearer trend line. In 2006/07, the value of investment in the agriculture sector grew by one per cent resulting from growth in construction, machinery and equipment investments. The value of investment in the food and beverage sector declined by 1.5 per cent resulting from a 13.8 per cent decline in construction investments. The decline in construction investments occurred at a time of growing construction costs and skill shortages in B.C.

Objective 1.1: Strengthened innovation within the agriculture and food sectors

Long-term competitiveness in the agriculture and food sectors requires continued innovation across agriculture, aquaculture and food sector value chains. The ministry is committed to investing in activities that will enhance economic development and environmental sustainability in the agriculture and food sectors.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- identifying and promoting agriculture development opportunities in the Province's management of the mountain pine beetle;
- developing new technology and facilitating research to support a sustainable finfish and shellfish aquaculture strategy;
- developing an Agriculture Plan that builds on opportunities for innovation and investment vehicles, niche markets and value chains; and
- partnering with industry, research institutions and other government agencies to develop a research innovation and extension system that addresses gaps across the agriculture and food supply chains.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Dollar value of ministry investment in research and development and in related scientific activities	$6.019 million	$6.000 million [1]	Growth above a 3-year rolling average	$7.584 million (26.4% growth) EXCEEDED

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. 2004 Report on Scientific Activities of the Government of British Columbia. There is a time lag in the time between when the data is collected and when it is reported. As a consequence, data presented in 2005/06 as an actual is based on reported expenditures in 2003/04.

[1] The actuals for 2004/05 are based on an annual average over a three-year period including actuals for 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05. Actuals for 2005/06 are based on an annual average over a three-year period including actuals for 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06. The actuals for 2006/07 are based on a three-year average of investment actuals for 2004/05, 2005/06, and preliminary estimates for 2006/07.

Discussion of Results

Dollar value of ministry investment in research and development and in related scientific activities: This measure assesses direct and indirect investment in the development and transfer of new knowledge — as well as innovations in products and processes in the agriculture and food sector in B.C. — which act as stimulants to industry growth, competitiveness and profitability. In 2006/07 the three-year average for direct and indirect investment into research and

development is estimated at $7.584 million, which is an increase of 26.4 per cent over the annual average of $6 million over the 2003-2005 period. The substantial increase in expenditures reflects several new initiatives within the Ministry which included funding support to the Science and Innovation Council, East Kootenay's Invasive Plant Management Program and the B.C. Waste and Specified Risk Material Handling and Disposal Strategy delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Objective 1.2: Effective management of farm business and income risks

Weather hazards, natural disasters, diseases, pests and market declines pose significant risks to producers of agriculture products. These risks can cause losses and may lead to income instability in specific commodities. The Ministry aims to create a stable platform for sector development providing a comprehensive approach to managing risk for farms. Farmers who are unable to achieve positive net farm income have access through the Ministry to renewal programs, which focus on shifting existing farm production to other sectors.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- promoting effective management of income risks through the utilization of national programs — Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program and Production Insurance — and other appropriate private-sector tools to manage income risks and facilitate industry planning and sustainability;
- continuing wildlife damage compensation initiative to compensate land owners for impacts of wildlife;
- creating partnerships with the private sector in the development and delivery of risk management programs; and
- ensuring program changes remain within fiscal capacity of the Province.

Performance Results

Performance Measures	Benchmark[1]	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Level of coverage under business risk management programs					
Percentage of eligible crops insured under Production Insurance[1]	70%	76%	76%	70%	76% Achieved
Percentage of B.C. farm cash receipts covered by Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program	85%	81%	85%	85%	83% Substantively Achieved

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Note: Targets and actuals exclude forage.

[1] The benchmarks are accepted national standards for the minimum level of coverage needed to achieve an effective level of risk management.

Discussion of Results

Level of coverage under business risk management programs: The level of coverage provides an indication of the extent to which farmers are proactively managing risks as they relate to weather, natural disasters, disease, pests and market declines.

Production Insurance helps producers manage uncontrollable losses due primarily to weather. A total of 76 per cent of eligible crops were insured under Production Insurance in 2006. This exceeds the national standard of 70 per cent for coverage. While this national standard has been met and exceeded in recent years, participation remains voluntary. Many factors can affect the ability to maintain this level of coverage in the future including premium increases, price competition or weather.

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program provides protection for overall income losses not covered by Production Insurance. This can include income losses resulting from increases in input costs or sudden price declines. The national standard for the minimum level of coverage for farm cash receipts is 85 per cent. In 2006/07, 83 per cent of B.C. farm cash receipts were covered by the income stabilization program.

Last year, several improvements in coverage were made. Enhanced grain and oilseed production insurance products were introduced, and plant loss coverage for blueberries due to flood damage was introduced for 2007.

Objective 1.3: Enhanced international reputation for the quality of B.C. products and improved market access

The majority of B.C.'s agriculture and food sector products are destined for international markets that are highly competitive. Access to markets and increased consumer demand for B.C.-grown products are essential for growth. The Ministry is working with the federal government to address trade-related issues and is working with industry to establish standards of quality that are internationally recognized.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- supporting the agriculture, food, seafood and aquaculture component of the Province's Asia Pacific and International Trade and Investment to 2010 strategies;
- working with the federal government through collective national discussions to obtain real improvements in market access for all commodities;
- developing systems for livestock traceability to include a mandatory age verification component by 2007; and
- facilitating industry development and adoption of food and agriculture quality programs, such as the Wines of Marked Quality Regulation, that enable B.C. to access domestic and global markets that recognize quality standards.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual[1]	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Dollar value of international exports in agriculture and food sectors	$2.371 billion	$2.348 billion	4% growth	$2.423 billion (3.2% growth) Substantively Achieved

Data Source: B.C. Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizen's Services as adapted from Statistics Canada, International Trade Statistics, released June 2007.

[1] The actuals are based on monthly out-of-country exports aggregated to the fiscal year (2004/06 is based on actuals for 2004/05, 2005/06 is based on actuals for fiscal year 2005/06 and 2006/07 is based on actuals for 2006/07).

Discussion of Results

Dollar value of international exports in agriculture and food sectors: Performance in the international market is measured by monitoring the annual growth in the value of B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors. The trade environment proved challenging. The continued high

value of the Canadian dollar and low commodity prices in some sectors led to a slight decline in the value of exports for some commodities while sector exports as a whole grew by 3.2 per cent over fiscal year 2006/07.

Objective 1.4: British Columbians value and support agriculture

Agricultural activity occurs within communities and depends on good relations with local government and community members. As populations grow, many cities and towns in B.C. are encroaching upon areas that were once predominantly rural and agricultural in nature, placing greater pressure on agricultural operations and potentially constraining agricultural growth. These pressures can be reflected in local and provincial policies and regulations. There are also areas where local government policies are not coordinated with provincial policies such as air quality regulations. The Ministry aims to create a positive environment by working with local communities and governments and with other provincial agencies to address key issues of concern and build a greater awareness of the value and contributions that agriculture makes to the local economy.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- increasing community awareness and acceptance of agriculture to bridge the urban/ agriculture divide such as Provincial Agricultural Fairs and 4-H;
- working with local government to enhance the contribution that agriculture makes to the community and the province; and
- supporting the formation and operation of local agricultural advisory committees, and developing a working relationship with the Union of B.C. Municipalities to improve awareness of agriculture sector needs.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Number of agricultural advisory committees	22	24	26	27[1] EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

[1] Agricultural Advisory Committees were established in Spallumcheen, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Area C) and the Islands Trust.

Discussion of Results

Number of agricultural advisory committees: The Ministry has a long history of working with both the agriculture and food sector and local government and communities to ensure that agriculture businesses continue to be good neighbours and are supported locally. Agricultural advisory committees are one mechanism for building agricultural awareness within communities as well as promoting the development of Agricultural Area Plans which include planning for farm and residential edges. There are 49 local governments in the province with a significant agricultural sector and establishing committees in these areas is viewed as a first step in building the capacity to plan for agriculture in local areas. In 2006/07, a total of 27 committees were operating at the local level.

These committees have been effective in supporting the development of agricultural area planning in communities including Spallumcheen and Saltspring Island. In the Township of Langley, the local committee has effectively supported the Edge Planning Initiative — a pilot initiative that will plan for urban growth in urban areas while enhancing agricultural viability in the ALR. Already, three additional communities have expressed interest in undertaking similar initiatives. In addition, the Ministry hosted a workshop to enable over 100 members from committees around B.C. to exchange information and share best practices.

Now that agricultural advisory committees have been established in most priority areas, the ministry will be replacing this measure with a measure that examines their effectiveness.

Goal 2: Agriculture and food systems that are environmentally sustainable and promote human, plant and animal health

Objective 2.1: Effective management of environmental risks

Responsible production and environmental protection are fundamental to the province's food and agriculture sectors. Effective management of environmental risks supports long-term sustainability as well as community and consumer confidence in food safety and quality.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- promoting the development and use of environmental farm plans and beneficial management practices;
- contributing to provincial environmental objectives such as clean air, water and invasive plans; and

- continuing to update B.C.'s standards, policies and regulations to improve environmental performance of the agriculture and food industries through analysis of environmental quality indicators and evaluation of current practices as required.

Performance Results

Performance Measures	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Per cent of sites in full compliance with best management practice plans on finfish farms	97%	97% [1]	95%	99% EXCEEDED
Number of farms with environmental farm plans [2]	112	364	800	1,565 EXCEEDED
Number of farms that have implemented environmental farm plans	Less than 20	72	200	300 [3] EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands database for compliance with best management practice plans. B.C. Agriculture Council delivers the Environmental Farm Planning Program.

[1] The 2006/07 service plan was based on an estimated compliance rate of 90 per cent since data had not been finalized at the time that the service plan was published. The actual rate was 97 per cent.

[2] There are approximately 9,000 farms in B.C. with sales greater than $10,000.

[3] Farmer confidentiality is maintained in the voluntary environmental farm planning program in order to increase participation rates. Consequently, it is difficult to track with absolute precision the number of plans that have been implemented. The B.C. Agriculture Council estimates that over 300 plans have now been implemented.

Discussion of Results

Per cent of sites in full compliance with best management practices plans on finfish farms: Implementation of Best Management Plans is intended to improve environmental performance by preventing finfish escapes and to provide greater assurance to the public that operators are meeting stringent environmental sustainability objectives. The measure provides an indication of the level of compliance between finfish operations and their plans. In 2006/07 the Ministry conducted compliance reviews of operators and concluded that of 99 per cent of these were in full compliance with their Best Management Plans. This represents a considerable achievement given that compliance rates were in the 60 per cent range in 2002.

Number of farms with Environmental Farm Plans: Farmers and ranchers undertake activities that can potentially pose risks to the environment and they continue to invest in new technologies and practices that reduce these risks. The Ministry encourages voluntary adoption of best management practices by promoting the development and implementation of Environmental Farm Plans. These plans account for the environmental risks associated with particular farm and ranch businesses and include practical actions that can be taken to significantly reduce risks.

At the close of 2006/07 a total 3,917 producers had attended training and information sessions with 1,565 plans developed, of which more than 300 have been implemented. A total of $26 million has been committed to be spent on the implementation of plans of which $7.7 million has been provided by the federal and provincial governments on a cost shared basis. For every dollar spent by government, approximately two dollars are being spent by producers on a voluntary basis to improve environmental practices on the farm.

The Ministry and federal governments are continuing to promote the use of Environmental Farm Plans as a voluntary means for farmers and ranchers to complete environmental risk assessments of their operations.

Objective 2.2: Effective management of plant, animal and food safety risks

The Ministry is committed to minimizing the risks associated with B.C.'s food production systems, particularly as it relates to the early identification and response to diseases, pests and other environmental contaminants. Achieving this objective contributes to the broader public health and safety goal of government.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- improving the Ministry's capacity to respond to disease-causing agents and invasive weeds and pests affecting agriculture and food industries;
- enhancing federal, provincial, First Nations and local cross government integration to manage plan, fish, animal and human health risks;
- working with all levels of government and industry to apply lessons learned from response to foreign animal disease outbreaks (e.g., Avian Influenza and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) to improve bio-security measures that will reduce potential outbreaks and improve response in future;
- developing a strategy for partners in the eating healthy component of ActNow BC and to provide direction for food policy; and
- facilitating the development of national tracking and traceability systems for food and agriculture.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Number of commodity groups implementing a national on-farm food safety and quality program	4 commodity groups	5 commodity groups	7 commodity groups	7[1] Achieved

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

[1] This data is current as of March 2007. There are about 30 national programs in various stages of development. Ten programs have passed phase 1 technical review and are ready for implementation while others are under development. Of the 10 that have passed review, seven are in the implementation staged in B.C. In addition, B.C. has two quality programs established by provincial regulation that are not included in the 2006/07 target and actuals. Targets are cumulative.

Discussion of Results

Number of commodity groups implementing a national on-farm food safety and quality program: On-farm food safety and quality programs help B.C. farms and businesses effectively manage risks affecting food safety. These programs are developed by national producer organizations and cover plants and animals used for food products. As programs are approved, producer organizations, with the Ministry's support, implement them. There are about 30 national programs in various stages of development. A total of seven national on-farm programs had been implemented in British Columbia by the end of 2006/07.

Goal 3: Coordinated Crown land administration and allocation that optimizes the flow of sustainable benefits for British Columbia

Objective 3.1: Crown land use and allocation policy that reflects the provincial interest

The Ministry has lead responsibility for developing a Crown Land Allocation Framework to enhance coordination of Crown land allocation across the province. Strategic policy and tools to support decision-making provide the overarching framework for Crown land allocation. Operational policy and support for Crown land adjudication and tenure administration is needed to ensure effective implementation of strategic policy within the framework. Partnerships with other agencies will help to balance interests in away that leads to optimal use of Crown land and resources in support of Government's Strategic Plan.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- developing strategic policy and analysis tools that enable optimal use and allocation of Crown land;
- reviewing the current range of tenures and operational and pricing policies;
- promoting collaborative and effective partnership with the Integrated Land Management Bureau and other ministries for coordinated administration of Crown land; and
- revising consultation and accommodation guidelines to reflect the province's emerging new relationship with First Nations, and encourage greater economic opportunities for the province from the use of Crown land.

Objective 3.2: Crown land disposition that reflects the provincial interest

Crown land can be a catalyst for community and economic development for First Nations, communities across B.C., and the private sector. It is critical that decisions are balanced and consistent with the strategic Crown Land Allocation Framework, and within provincial interest.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- disposition of Crown land that is consistent with the Crown Land Allocation Framework; and
- identifying opportunities to work effectively with other provincial ministries, communities, First Nations and the private sector to accommodate their interests through the disposition of Crown land.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
An effective Crown Land Allocation Framework	N/A	N/A	Completion of Policy Analysis	Substantively Achieved

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Discussion of Results

An effective Crown land allocation framework: Modernizing the Crown land allocation framework to be more responsive and client-centred is a multi-year project that involves strategic policy development, operational policy review, communications initiatives and information systems upgrades. Performance measurement for this goal will focus initially on the development

of policy elements within the framework. Once it is implemented, the Ministry will begin to monitor the effectiveness of this new framework. For this reason, the performance measure was revised shortly after the implementation of the 2006 Service Plan to "per cent of operational policies reviewed and updated" to more accurately capture the progress of policy development.

In the past year, the Ministry has drafted a set of contemporary strategic principles to guide decisions about Crown land use in B.C. The Ministry has also drafted a land sales policy which sets out general objectives and considerations to guide dispositions of Crown Land pursuant to the *Land Act*. The Ministry has reviewed and updated five of its 21 operational policies to be consistent with these new strategic principles. The Ministry has also improved public access to essential land program information and services through improvements to client communications and information systems. These improvements include a new website, streamlined application packages and upgrades to the Tantalis land management computer system.

Goal 4: A centre of excellence promoting sustainability through the management and remediation of contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province

Objective 4.1: Contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province are managed to eliminate human health risks, enhance environmental sustainability and foster economic development

Remediation of contaminated sites meets environmental and public health goals and also promotes continued economic development. This approach is the first step in achieving a centre of excellence within the Ministry and enables agencies to collaborate on long-term initiatives relating to contaminated sites.

Strategies

Key strategies for this objective included:

- inventorying, prioritizing, funding and managing known contaminated sites using a risk-based approach;
- coordinating funding requests and site remediation to address the Province's highest priority sites;
- directing remediation of significant priority contaminated sites such as Britannia Mine and Pacific Place; and
- identifying opportunities to increase private-sector participation in the remediation and development of contaminated sites.

Performance Results

Performance Measure	2004/05 Actual	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Target	2006/07 Actual
Number of priority sites for which remediation is underway/completed	2	18	17	26 EXCEEDED

Data Source: Ministry database. Numbers are cumulative.

Discussion of Results

Number of priority sites for which remediation is underway/completed: The Provincial Contaminated Sites Committee assesses contaminated sites and determines priorities based on anticipated risks to human health and the environment. Risk ranking of sites is undertaken annually for the purpose of identifying the highest risk sites. This performance measure includes both clean-up of a contaminated site and the preceding investigative work, which is consistent with the definition of remediation in the *Environmental Management Act*. Because remediation is often a multi-year exercise depending on site size, complexity and regulatory requirements, the measure is cumulative.

Since the inception of the Crown Contaminated Sites program in 2003, remediation work has been completed at the Pitt River landfill site on the lower mainland and in Goose Bay, a former cannery and fishing camp located on the central coast. Remediation is currently underway for another 24 contaminated sites.[18] Of these 24 sites, six have been determined to be priority sites for action because they pose potential risks to human health and the environment, 10 have been deemed candidate sites requiring further investigation, and eight have been placed on a watch list. Among the priority sites, major progress has been made on the Britannia Mine near Squamish, Pacific Place located on the former Expo lands in Vancouver, and the Malakwa landfill site on the Eagle River east of Sicamous. The Ministry also provides management oversight to another five contaminated sites to ensure that provincial legal obligations made under remediation agreements are fulfilled. Of these five sites, major progress has been made at the Yankee Girl mine in the Kootenays. In February 2007, the Ministry initiated development of a Provincial Brownfields Strategy. As part of this strategy the Ministry has identified three sites for pilot projects: the former Millstream Meadows landfill north of Victoria; Ladysmith Harbour; and the New Westminster Gasworks site.

[18] The Ministry has adopted the *Environmental Management Act* definition for "remediation" which includes site investigations in addition to clean-up activities.

Report on Resources

Resource Summary Table

The Resource Summary table below outlines the expenditures by core business area. The summary includes all expenditures for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses ($000)					
Food Industry Development	16,389		16,389	18,147	1,758
Agriculture and Aquaculture Management	8,478		8,478	9,852	1,374
Risk Management (includes Special Account) [1]	26,957	5,791	32,748	37,948	5,201
Crown Land Administration	36,171		36,171	30,589	(5,582)
Executive and Support Services	8,373	500	8,873	5,807	(3,066)
Sub-Total	**96,368**	**6,291**	**102,659**	**102,343**	**(315)**
Agricultural Land Commission	2,108		2,108	2,025	(83)
Integrated Land Management Bureau	58,984	37,831	96,815	96,815	
Crown Land Special Account	69,037	51,594	120,631	120,631	
Transfer from Crown Land Special Account to General Account		(83,661)	(83,661)	(83,661)	
Adjustment of Prior Year's Accrual				(315)	(315)
Ministry Total	**226,497**	**12,055**	**238,552**	**237,838**	**(713)**
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs)					
Food Industry Development	157		157	153	(4)
Agriculture and Aquaculture Management	83		83	79	(4)
Risk Management	35		35	35	
Crown Land Administration [2]	146		146	49	(97)
Executive and Support Services	10		10	10	
Sub-Total	**431**		**431**	**326**	**(105)**

[1] Includes the Production Insurance Special Account totaling $25.5 million for expenses that can only be accessed for crop insurance indemnity payments and reinsurance premiums.

[2] 96 FTEs were reassigned from Crown Land Administration to the Integrated Land Management Bureau during 2006/07. The FTE actuals reflect this reallocation of resources.

	Estimated	Other Authorizations	Total Estimated	Actual	Variance
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) — Cont'd					
Agricultural Land Commission	22		22	19	(3)
Integrated Land Management Bureau [2]	347		347	453	106
Crown Land Special Account					
Ministry Total	**800**		**800**	**798**	**(2)**
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) ($000)					
Food Industry Development	888		888	1,235	347
Agriculture and Aquaculture Management	437		437	181	(256)
Risk Management	168		168	117	(51)
Crown Land Administration	420		420	23	(397)
Executive and Support Services	87		87	806	719
Total	**2,000**		**2,000**	**2,362**	**362**
Agricultural Land Commission	15		15		(15)
Integrated Land Management Bureau	8,762		8,762	7,886	(876)
Crown Land Special Account				16	16
Ministry Total	**10,777**		**10,777**	**10,264**	**(513)**

[1] Includes the Production Insurance Special Account totaling $25.5 million for expenses that can only be accessed for crop insurance indemnity payments and reinsurance premiums.

[2] 96 FTEs were reassigned from Crown Land Administration to the Integrated Land Management Bureau during 2006/07. The FTE actuals reflect this reallocation of resources.

Comments and Explanations

Operating Expenditure Variances

Other Authorizations include $5.8 million under statutory authority for the indemnity payments made from the Production Insurance Special Account, and $0.5 million for negotiated salary costs charged against the Contingencies (All Ministries) and New Programs vote.

Significant variances of actual expenditures exceeding budget include $1.3 million for the Pacific Salmon Forum (Food Industry Development), $1.1 million for the Invasive Weed Control program (Agriculture and Aquaculture Management), and $5.0 million for the provincial government's response to the Okanagan tree fruit strategy and to the northern drought impact

on the cattle industry, which was cost-shared with Federal Government (Risk Management). These variances are offset by a $5.4 million surplus in the Contaminated Sites Program due to lower remediation activity than anticipated and savings in Executive and Support Services.

Capital Expenditure Variances

Variances in the Capital Expenditures are mainly due to reallocations of the capital budget between divisions during the fiscal year. This results in overspending in some areas that is offset by underspending in other areas. Ministry Operations also experienced some additional pressures for specialized equipment used in the Abbotsford Animal Health Lab, as well as increased spending on vehicle leases and information systems.

Core Business Areas

The Ministry provides services through five core business areas.

1. Food Industry Development

Food Industry Development facilitates sector research and innovation; provides advice and information services on issues affecting the development, production, marketing and business management of the sectors; promotes youth leadership programs; provides animal and aquatic health surveillance and disease diagnostic services; and is responsible for aquaculture development and policy and coordinating province-wide land and water policies and programs as they relate to environmental management on farms. The business area works with industry, local governments and others to promote public awareness of the agriculture and aquaculture sectors and address and resolve urban/agriculture issues.

2. Agriculture and Aquaculture Management

Agriculture and Aquaculture Management provides legislation and policy leadership for the agriculture and food sectors. This includes strategic and policy support to the regulated marketing systems, Farm Industry Review Board and Agricultural Policy Framework agreement as well as for reducing regulatory burden and promoting balanced international and inter-provincial trade. In addition, Agriculture and Aquaculture Management coordinates invasive plant management for the province, manages plant health and diagnostics as well as food safety and quality initiatives, and is the lead for licensing, compliance and enforcement of aquaculture and for licensing of livestock.

3. Risk Management

Risk Management is responsible for the administration and delivery of Production Insurance and supports the federal administration and delivery of Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization programs, which help stabilize farm businesses against risks such as severe weather, diseases and local market prices. Both programs are cost-shared by the federal government, provincial government and producers.

4. Crown Land Administration

Crown Land Administration provides leadership across government for Crown land administration, including responsibility for developing the legislative and policy framework for the allocation of Crown land; developing tenure documents and planning tools; completing economic analysis; and providing Crown land managers with advice and training related to operational policy and aboriginal relations. Crown Land Administration also provides leadership in the management of contaminated sites on Crown land by coordinating the identification and remediation of priority sites that are the responsibility of the Province. The Division is also responsible for facilitating major Crown land disposition proposals.

5. Executive and Support Services

Executive and Support Services includes the offices of the Minister, Deputy Minister and Corporate Services Division which provide financial support services, human resources, performance strategies, freedom of information and records management and information technology to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, including the Integrated Land Management Bureau, as well as the Ministry of Environment.

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